

COOPERATION
FOR CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION
AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
IN BELARUS

TANDEM



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Project Implementers | 4 |
| ALDA | 4 |
| The NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation | 4 |
| About the Project | 8 |
| Trainings and Seminars | 9 |
| 1. Project Management: Financial and Narrative Reporting | 9 |
| 2. Driving a Change in Society: Aims, Indicators, Project Logical Framework, and Organisational Development | 9 |
| 3. Local Self-Government in Belarus: Historical Perspective and the Current State of Development | 10 |
| International study visit to Latvia | 11 |
| Partner Projects and Civic Initiatives | 12 |
| 1. Let's Make a Festival Together! | 12 |
| 2. Development and Activity of the Village Elders Club KUT | 13 |
| 3. New Sportsground for Extreme Sports | 14 |
| 4. The Time Bestowed to Us: The Youth for Sustainable Development and Volunteering | 15 |
| 5. Zditovo, Our Dear Motherland | 16 |
| 6. Yes We Can | 17 |
| 7. Advocacy for Consumer Rights Protection in Maryina Gorka and Pukhovichi | 18 |
| 8. From Individual Ideas to Sustainable Development of the Whole Region | 19 |
| 9. New Village: Partnership for Sustainable Development | 20 |
| 10. Towards Each Other | 21 |
| 11. Preserving the Historical Legacy of the Counts Hutten-Czapski | 22 |
| 12. Green Map: Platform for Cooperation between Active Citizens and Local Authorities | 23 |
| Analytical materials | 24 |
| Forms of Citizen Participation in Local Self-Governance | 24 |
| Citizen Participation in Local Decision-Making Processes | 24 |

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Project Implementers

European Association for Local Democracy - ALDA

The European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA) is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. ALDA in particular focuses on activities that facilitate cooperation between local authorities and civil society.

ALDA was established in 1999 at the initiative of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to coordinate and support the network of Local Democracy Agencies, which was established in the early 1990's. Local Democracy Agencies are self-sustainable, locally registered NGO's acting as promoters of good governance and local self-government.

ALDA is a membership based organisation gathering more than 170 members (including local authorities and non-governmental organisations) coming from more than 30 countries of Europe and the Neighbourhood. ALDA is funded through membership fees and project funding from the European Commission, the Council of Europe and other public and private donors.

What is unique about ALDA?

As part of the effort to promote good governance and citizen participation at the local level, ALDA focuses on various topics, including European integration, decentralisation, civic initiatives and volunteering, human rights and sustainable economic development.

What we do?

- Coordinating and supporting the 14 Local Democracy Agencies in their activities,
- Developing and implementing our own projects in the field of good governance and citizen participation at the local level,
- Supporting other local stakeholders' initiatives by providing expertise gained through ALDA's knowledge and experience in the regions where ALDA and the Local Democracy Agencies are active.

Where we work?

ALDA works in most of European Union and the European Neighbourhood countries. Activities in the European Union focus in particular on the promotion of Active European Citizenship. Activities in the Western Balkans and European Neighbourhood focus on good governance, citizen participation, European integration, and decentralisation.

Most of the Local Democracy Agencies are located in the Western Balkans, which gives a natural focus on that area. But ALDA is becoming increasingly active in the European Neighbourhood. New Local Democracy Agencies were established in Kutaisi (Georgia) in 2006, and in Gyumri (Armenia) in 2011. The most recently an LDA was opened in 2015 in Dnipropetrovsk (Ukraine). ALDA is also leading several other projects and developing partnerships in other European Neighbourhood countries, such as Belarus, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey.

The NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation

In 1991 the deputies of the local Councils of Belarus, specialists in the field of law, economics, political science and culture, inspired by local democracy and local self-government principles, realised the need to establish a Foundation for Democratic Reforms Support named after Lev Sapieha. It was established on June 26th 1992 and was registered by the Ministry of Justice on August 11th of the same year as a public non-political non-profit organisation. The NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation has currently over 150 registered members across Belarus and regional offices in every region of Belarus

The NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation enjoys a vast network of international contacts. Since 2001 it has been participating in the work of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe as an observer.

The main purpose of the NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation activity is to assist the process of gradual

democratic reforms in the Republic of Belarus, foremost in the fields of local self-government and democracy as well as in the field of economy, science, culture, human rights and ecology.

Principal goals of the organisation are:

- Support for preparation and implementation of the local self-government reform
- Support for establishment and development of NGOs and associated networks at the regional level
- Protection of human rights and freedoms within local communities
- Development of and support for civic initiatives at local level

The Informational Educational Centre for Local Self-Government Problems within the LSF for the first time presented the European Charter of Local Self-Government to Belarusian experts and stakeholders in the mid-1990s. Much attention is being paid to studying the legislation and practical experience of municipalities of Central and Eastern European countries.

The obtained knowledge is shared with municipal, scientific, and public organisations from other countries of the region such as Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Poland, Czech Republic, Germany Sweden, Georgia, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Russia. Such exchange of experience takes place through seminars, round tables and conferences held within the Republic of Belarus, as well as through study visits of Belarusian and foreign experts.

Throughout the entire period of its activity, the experts and coordinators of the NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation have been actively cooperating with the Parliament and local authorities of the Republic of Belarus. Members of Parliament and local Councillors have been taking an active part in numerous seminars arranged by the NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation. The representatives of the NGO have an observer status in the Standing Commission for study the experience of the State Building and Local Self-Government of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States.



The Bureau on Non-Governmental Organisations within the NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation is focusing on the investigation of legal and socio-psychological aspects of establishment of NGO's in Belarus and their activities, as well as analysis of current legal frameworks, and further development of NGO's and their networks. More than 50 NGO's were established in different regions of Belarus with the support of the NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation as part of its activities. Civic initiatives in the field of social welfare, culture, environment, education, youth and sports are being actively supported at the local level through the implementation of joint projects and consultations.

As part of its activities, the NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation has built partnerships with international organisations, funds and initiatives aimed at promotion of local self-government and development of civil society, as well as citizen participation at the local level.

The NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation is continually developing partnerships with numerous European organisations such as the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL), Foundation in Support

of Local Democracy (FRDL) (Poland), Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania and others.

In cooperation with its partners, the NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation has been successful in delivering projects supported by the European Commission, UNDP, the Open Society Institute (Soros' Foundation), and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, PHARE-TACIS, MATRA, USAID programmes and others.

The NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation offices operate in all the regions of Belarus enjoying a vast array of experience in the area of local citizen participation and local self-government. They plan and tailor their activities to the specific needs of the localities with the support of local NGO's.

The regional offices offer educational seminars to all stakeholders and support civil society initiatives. They cooperate with local councillors and NGO leaders, acting as resource centres for citizens. Thanks to these activities over the past 20 years of its operations more than 6500 representatives of public organisations and local government have had the opportunity to raise their professional and educational skills.





Throughout its history the NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation has been engaged in publishing aimed at disseminating knowledge and best practices in local self-government, civil participation and local initiatives, NGO development activities, review of current Belarusian and international legislation, showcase of projects and programmes of Belarusian experts for the promotion of local self-government reforms in the Republic of Belarus.

The NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation has published over 70 books, publications, periodicals, scientific reviews, journals, guides and reference books for experts in the field of local self-government, NGO and civil initiatives leaders, researchers, academia and students including the following major publications:

- European Charter of Local Self-Government translated into the Belarusian language
- First and currently the only fundamental scientific and practical guide in the country “Local Self-Government in Belarus”
- Quarterly journal “Bulletin of Self-Government” (27 editions)

- Review of the major legal acts in the field of local self-government (a set of publications for 2006-2011.)
- Number of publications outlining Lev Sapieha’s role and mission
- Reference book for local councillors in the Republic of Belarus (2 editions)
- Reference book for teachers of secondary and secondary specialised schools on democracy and civil society development challenges (a series of 10 publications)
- Scientific and practical guide “Local Self-Government Associations”
- Number of publications about relevant local challenges (in the area of housing and land management, delivery of housing and utility services, environmental security, access to environmental and other information of public interest, guarantee of social rights and freedoms of citizens)
- Reference book “Local Self-Government in Belarus and Foreign Countries (questions and answers)”, etc.

Further information about Lev Sapieha Foundation can be found online: <http://www.sapieha.org>

About the Project

The project TANDEM II - Cooperation for Citizen Participation and Community Development in Belarus started in May 2013 and run until May 2015. The overall objective was to strengthen an inclusive and empowered society in Belarus by supporting the development of local communities and strengthening their cooperation with local authorities (LAs).

Non State Actors (NSA) play an important role in supporting and generating sustainable development at the local level, contributing to promotion of democracy, social justice and human rights. It is of the utmost importance to support these actors, in order to ensure their ownership of the development strategies and to favour their full involvement in the policy making process, enhancing their capacities to act as development agents at the local level. It is possible to achieve the best results favouring a structured dialogue within and among all types of NSA and LAs, as well as between them and the EU Institutions.

The following actions were undertaken as part of the project:

- A range of trainings on the topics of local self-government and project management
- Publication and distribution of analytical materials
- International study visit to Latvia
- Support of partner projects and civic initiatives
- International conferences



Trainings and Seminars

During the project implementation, three sessions of trainings and seminars on topics of self-government and project management took place in Minsk.

1. Project Management: Financial and Narrative Reporting

Date: 31st May 2014

Organisers: Miroslav Kobasa, President, Lev Sapieha Foundation
Larisa Avtukhovich, Senior Accountant, Lev Sapieha Foundation

Seminar Topics:

- General requirements for project reporting
- Recommendations for grants recipients on narrative and financial reporting
- Drafting financial reports
- Drafting narrative reports
- Practical exercises on project reporting

The participants of the seminar proposed and discussed the most efficient approaches to drafting and presenting financial and narrative reports.

2. Driving a Change in Society: Aims, Indicators, Project Logical Framework, and Organisational Development

Date: 6-7th February 2015

Organisers: Consulting Group IMACON (Sergey Gotin, Victoria Kalosha)

Day 1: *Setting objectives and indicators for measuring achievement*

Seminar Topics:

- Setting objectives through answering the questions: What we do? Why we do? How we do?
- What are the indicators? How to understand that you have achieved your objectives? Qualitative and quantitative indicators, results and impact
- Work in groups: setting the overall and specific objectives

Day 2: *Organisational development through projects*

Seminar Topics:

- Setting objectives through answering the questions: What we do? Why we do? How we do?
- What are the indicators? How to understand that you have achieved your objectives? Qualitative and quantitative indicators, results and impact
- Work in groups: setting the overall and specific objectives

Both seminars were based on interactions among the participants with the use of different methods, including brainstorming, small group interaction, debates, constructive criticism, comparative analysis, and presentation of interim and final results.

3. Local Self-Government in Belarus: Historical Perspective and the Current State of Development

Date: 6-7th March 2015

Organisers:

- Miroslav Kobasa, President, Lev Sapieha Foundation
- David Melua, General Secretary, National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG)
- Andrey Yegorov, Director, Centre for European Transformation

The experts of the NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation:

- Andrey Zavadsky
- Valery Sidorchuk
- Dmitry Sokol
- Mikhail Plisko

Day 1: *Legal framework for local self-government in Belarus and case studies*

Seminar Topics:

- Constitutional and legal framework for local self-government in Belarus;
- European Charter of Local Self-Government as the contemporary model for development and functioning of local authorities;
- Public service: the current state and development trends;
- Financial and economic basis for local self-government in Belarus;
- Local self-government reforms in Georgia and prospects for further development.

Day 2: *Historical perspective on development of local self-government in Belarus and forms of citizen participation in local decision-making processes*

Seminar Topics:

- Historical foundation and forms of local self-government in Belarus from the times of the Principality of Polotsk to the Russian Empire
- Theory and practice of local self-government reforms in Russia and Belarus in 19-20th centuries
 - Manual of recommended practice for citizen participation in decision making processes
 - Forms of citizen participation in local self-government: legislation and practice (experience of Georgia)

The seminar was followed by the panel discussion on “Local self-government and civil society”. During the discussion the participants exchanged views on different forms of citizen participation in local self-governance and discussed the most effective forms for the actual situation in Belarus.

International study visit to Latvia

As part of TANDEM II, the international study visit to Latvia was organised on September 14-20th 2014, for the participants of the project, including the representatives of Belarusian NGOs and local authorities, as well as experts from ALDA and Lev Sapieha Foundation.

Activities:

- The delegation visited the municipalities of Daugavpils, Preiļi and Jelgava, as well as the cities of Riga and Jūrmala;

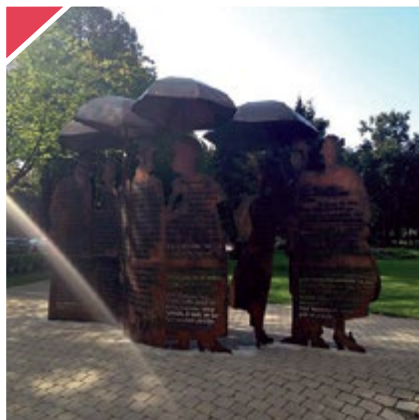
- In each municipality the participants had meetings with the representatives of local authorities to learn about the structure and activities of representative and executive bodies of local self-government, as well as forms and methods of their interaction and cooperation with NGOs;

- The municipalities also organised meetings with the representatives of local NGOs active in the

fields of education, art and culture, social security and social service, work with children, young and senior people, environment, sports, tourism, public service, restoration of historical heritage, and development of traditional folk crafts;

- In Riga, the participants visited the office of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Authorities to meet and discuss with its staff members and experts the current state and directions of development of local self-government in Latvia, as well as the best practices for cooperation between local and central authorities in addressing issues of local significance.

During the study visit, the participants had an opportunity to learn about the Latvian experience of local self-governance, as well as to establish relations with Latvian NGOs and local authorities. The contacts will benefit in the implementation of civic initiatives in Belarus.



Partner Projects and Civic Initiatives

1. Let's Make a Festival Together!

Venue: Slavgorod

Implementer: Local foundation for Rural Development "Renaissance-Agro"

Objective: Development of cooperation between the local foundation for rural development "Renaissance-Agro", citizens and the Slavgorod District Executive Committee through promoting national cheese-making traditions among the local population and holding the "Homemade Cheese" festival.

Activities:

- Organisational meeting with the stakeholders to establish the project's executive committee, elaborate the strategy and the action plan
- Educational seminars and trainings in the craft of homemade cheese making;
 - Designing label and wrapping for the homemade cheese
 - Best practices sharing with other Belarusian organisational committees responsible for the organisation of local festivals and other events
- Informational materials and public consultations for local milk and cheese producers
- Publication of leaflets about the project, Slavgorod cheese-makers and the "Homemade Cheese" Festival
- Development of tourist infrastructure
- Organisation of the "Homemade cheese" festival

Results:

- The action group, the local foundation "Renaissance-Agro" and the Slavgorod District Executive Committee successfully implemented their first joint project: the "Homemade Cheese" Festival with over 50 participants from different regions across Belarus
 - The action group "Slavgorod Cheese-Makers" grew to include 15 members and 50 types of cheese products
 - The organisers published and distributed 3 manuals with information about local cheese-makers and their products in 900 copies
 - The Slavgorod Region was recognised as a new tourist cluster "Slavgorod Cheese-Makers"



2. Development and Activity of the Village Elders Club KUT

Venue: Kolchuny, Oshmiany Region

Implementer: Department of Ideological Work, Culture and Youth Affairs of the Oshmiany Region Executive Committee

Objective: Foundation of the village elders club Culture of Territory Management (KUT) on the basis of the Kolchuny Village Library

Activities:

- Organisation of a working group in charge of the project implementation and responsibilities assignment
- Development of an action plan for the club and the social centre
- Organisation of the festival “KUTarsky Fest”
- Organisation of activities of the KUT volunteer group for cultural and social assistance in remote areas
- Organisation of the seminar on “Importance of information and legal culture in rural areas”
- Organisation of the round-table on “Improving living conditions in rural regions through community mobilisation activities “ with the participation of the representatives of local authorities and business
- Organisation of the final seminar on “The elders club KUT as a contributor to social and cultural development of the region”
- Organisation and promotion of the folk culture festival KUTarsky Fest that focused on identifying creative citizen initiatives and interesting folk crafts including a series of workshops on Belarusian fold art (e.g. weaving, vytsinanka and straw weaving)
- Publication of promotion materials about the festival, the activities of the KUT, and the seminar programmes

Results:

- The new social centre contributed to the cultural development of the region, including the remotely populated areas, and community mobilisation
- Engagement of the local population in local self-governance and decision-making process
- Development of creativity in the local communities including activation of disabled



3. New Sportsground for Extreme Sports

Venue: Rechitsa

Implementer: Department of Ideological Work, Culture and Youth Affairs of the Rechitsa Executive Committee

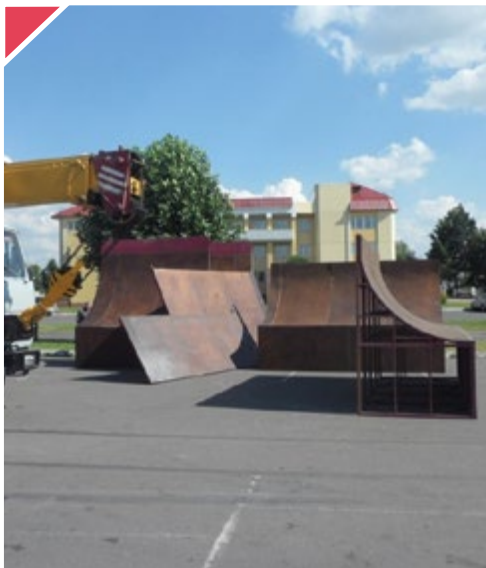
Objective: Development of sport infrastructure for local youth as a joint undertaking of local authorities, youth organisations and local civil society

Activities:

- Organisation of the round-table with the representatives of local authorities, councillors, civil society organisations and youth leaders to elaborate the action plan on construction of the extreme sports ground
- Organisation of a charity concert and additional fund-raising activities
- Organisation of an open subculture festival to present extreme sports with public performances of the best local sports groups from Rechitsa and awards for the most active project participants
- Extensive local media coverage

Results:

- Modern and accessible extreme sports ground for skateboarding, skating and street workout for the Rechitsa youth (over 10,000 youngsters)
- Increased youth sports activity, awareness of benefits of a healthy lifestyle, sense of community among the local youth and improved communication skills
- Successful example of cooperation between local authorities and civil society in undertaking joint responsibilities



4. The Time Bestowed to Us: The Youth for Sustainable Development and Volunteering

Venue: Braslav

Implementer: Braslav Regional Organisation for Trans-Border Cooperation Euroregion Ozerny Kray

Objective: Advance cooperation between active youth, civil society organisations and local authorities through the organisation of different events promoting healthy living, sustainable cooperation and volunteerism

Activities:

- Facilitating volunteerism
- Organisation of trainings and meetings for the interested volunteers
- Organisation of seminars on “Volunteerism as a means to acquire necessary skills and capacities for long-term engagement and personal and professional growth”
- Presentation on international volunteering opportunities
- Organization of sport and music festival “Viva Braslav” in cooperation with the local volunteer movement

Results:

- Mobilisation of the community through the participation in the sport and music events
- Encouraging the local volunteer movement
- Facilitation of cooperation between the local authorities and youth and civil society organisations



5. Zditovo, Our Dear Motherland

Venue: Zditovo

Implementer: Initiative Group of the Sporovo Council on Sustainable Development

Objective: Set-up and development of a local support group for rural teachers to facilitate local initiatives

Activities:

- Organisation of joint thematic and educational meetings with citizens, local school graduates, and representatives of local authorities
- Publication of promotional brochure on “Zditovo, Our Dear Motherland!”
- Organisation of thematic educational meetings under the theme “Know Your Land”
- Organisation of the art competition to school children “Legends of Zditovo”
- Organisation of thematic events under the theme “Our Home is Abundant with Talents”
- Organisation of a folk festival to present local culinary traditions “Zditovo Fun”
- Organisation of a sports day called the “Small Olympics of Zditovo”;
- Opening of an exhibition of the local crafts “Zditovo Fair”
- Opening of a photo exhibition entitled “Past and Present of Zditovo through the Eyes of Photographers”
- Organisation of an educational course for citizens and the representatives of local authorities to present the promotional materials “Zditovo, Our Dear Motherland”

Results:

- Empowered and mobilised community thanks to the joint cooperation to organise and participate in events
- Increased trust between the local authorities and civil society through the joint work towards sustainable development of the rural areas
- Raised awareness of the population on the importance of local development



6. Yes We Can



Venue: Zhitkovichi

Implementer: Zhitkovichi Representation of the NGO BelAPDIIMI

Objective: Supporting the development of creative potential and entrepreneurial skills among young disabled community members

Activities:

- Organisation of a series of 14 theoretical and practical courses on hand-making souvenir dolls for young disabled people
- Sharing the experience of crafting souvenir dolls with the experts of the public service centres
- Organisation of workshops for citizens, school pupils, children participating in the summer camp Nadezhda (Bobruisk)
- Organisation of an award ceremony for the young workshop participants



Results:

- 6 young disabled people trained and employed
- Hand-made Slavic souvenir dolls distributed as souvenirs by the local authorities at the occasion of official visits
- Trained disabled youth able to make the dolls independently



7. Advocacy for Consumer Rights Protection in Maryina Gorka and Pukhovichi

Venue: Maryina Gorka

Organizer: Pukhovichi District Organisation of Consumer Rights Protection

Objective: To increase the level of knowledge on consumer rights protection among the population of Maryina Gorka and Pukhovichi

Activities:

A series of educational courses:

- Round-table “Belarusian legislation on consumer rights protection and application challenges”
- Training “Law on consumer rights protection as a tool for conflict resolution”;
- Seminar “Effective consumer rights protection independently and through the court system”
- Seminar “Registration of orders on different services”
- Seminar “Basic consumer rights in purchasing goods and services”
- Seminar “Contract work: regulations on conclusion, application and termination of contracts on purchasing goods and services”

Results:

- The population of Maryina Gorka and Pukhovichi has been equipped with practical knowledge on the application of the Belarusian legislation on consumer rights protection
- Increased awareness of mechanisms of consumers rights protection among the local population in order to effectively resolve their daily issues in that respect



8. From Individual Ideas to Sustainable Development of the Whole Region

Venue: Vileyka

Implementer: Civil Society Organization dedicated to sustainable development of the Vileyka region “ZO-Vik”

Objective: Development of the region’s tourist potential through the promotion of sustainable development ideas among the citizens, their engagement in local issues and cooperation with local authorities and local civil society

Activities:

- Organisation of the open competition under the title “From Individual Ideas to Sustainable Development of the Whole Region” and the development of thematic cycling routes
- Organisation of a bicycle tour following the proposed winning route
- Opening a thematic tourist information point to advise tourists and local cyclers on available cycling routes
- Organisation of a promotional event under the title “Make friends with bicycle” to attract local and visiting cyclists to cycle on working days instead of going by car

Results:

- Mobilised locals took active part in promoting Vileyka as a tourist destination
- Improved cooperation between local civil society organisations and authorities via joint implementation of the cycling project
- Increased expertise of citizens about sustainable development and project implementation



9. New Village: Partnership for Sustainable Development

Venue: Zalesye

Implementer: Local Charity Foundation Michał Kleofas Ogiński Northern Athens

Objective: To develop a partnership between the local community and authorities for joint implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Zalesye Region and improve the living conditions

Activities:

- Organisation of the round-table on “To develop a partnership between the local community and authorities for joint implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Zalesye Region and improve the living conditions including environmental protection awareness”
- Organisation of an open public event “Environmental Projector”
- Reconstruction of the local public cemetery
- Rehabilitation of the household waste areas to planting trees there instead
- Organisation of the seminar on “Development of basic environmental skills”
- Organisation of environmental courses “Environment and health”, “Protection of environment” and “Engaging citizens in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Zalesye Region”

Results:

- Undertaken joint activities and environmental courses positively contributed to the development of environmental protection culture among citizens
- Increased volunteer citizen participation to address local challenges
- Improved environmental situation in the region thanks to the joint activities of citizens, civil society organisations and local authorities



10. Towards Each Other

Venue: Bobruisk

Implementer: Nadezhda (Bobruisk Representation of the NGO BelAP-DiMI)

Objective: To provide equal and inclusive opportunities to disabled children and young people and supporting their integration into the society

Activities:

- Organisation of the following trainings: “What is the legislation”, “Relations in the family with a disabled child”, “Criteria of co-dependence and independence”, “Group, team, and organisation”, “What is self-determination”, “Barrier-free environment”, and “Development of internal motivation”
- Organisation of the round-table with state representatives of social services and lawyers to exchange expert knowledge and know-how with the parents on matters pertaining to advocacy, education of disabled children and young people, and disabled friendly development facilities and environment
- Organisation of a training on the use of computer and Microsoft Office software for fifteen teenagers with disabilities

Results:

- Developed an effective model for successful cooperation between the parents of disabled youth and civil society organisations of Bobruisk for addressing joint challenges
- Increased awareness in the society about problems and challenges of the families with disabled children and youth
- Improved skills and adaptability of disabled children and youth in the modern society



II. Preserving the Historical Legacy of the Counts Hutten-Czapski

Venue: Priluki

Implementer: Local Historical and Cultural Foundation “Leliwa”

Objective: To preserve the historical and cultural legacy of the Hutten-Czapski noble family in terms of their contribution to the urban development of the city of Minsk in the 19th century

Activities:

- Design and development of the memorial badge, calendar and other promotional materials to share with the wider public
- Preparation of a pitch to rehabilitate the Hutten-Czapski palace site in Priluki including an open public consultation
- Organisation of the final conference to present the results of the initiative
- Advocate with the local authorities to renovate the chapel that houses the Hutten-Czapski family crypt

Results:

- The positive contribution of the activities to the preservation of the cultural heritage and historical legacy of the Hutten-Czapski noble house as an awareness raising activity on civic engagement to the socio-cultural development of Priluki



12. Green Map: Platform for Cooperation between Active Citizens and Local Authorities

Venue: Minsk

Implementer: Centre for Environmental Solutions

Objective: To develop an interactive map of the marked collecting points for recyclable materials and other reusable waste

Activities:

- Establishment of working groups in the selected cities in charge of collection of the information and the development of the Green Maps
- Organisation of a series of round-tables on sustainable waste management
- Establishing and maintaining working relationships with the local authorities in order to promote the initiative and the concept of civil society - local authorities cooperation on recycling and waste management
- Set the ground for the project continuation following the implementation phase in the communities
- Extensive media coverage with over 50 articles and news in the regional and national media networks

Results:

- The pilot initiative inspired a number of communities to develop their own green maps for the cities of Baranovichi, Vitebsk, Volkovysk, Gomel, Molodechno, Smolevichy, and Stolbtsy with over 1, 000 waste collection sites marked
- Conducted more than 100 expert consultations on recycling and waste management to the interested communities
- Increased volunteer activity with over 20 volunteers engaged in the initiative at various locations
- Increased interest on the part of the local authorities in effective waste management in cooperation with the local civil society actors



Analytical materials

Forms of Citizen Participation in Local Self-Governance

Author: Mikhail Plisko

Page count: 71 pp.

Number of copies: 500

The brochure covers the legislative framework and instrumental forms of citizen participation in local self-governance. For the purpose of clarity, the publication organises the forms in 3 major groups based on the following general principles: direct forms of participation, indirect forms of participation, and public opinion polls/surveys. The role of the citizens is not limited to taking active part in addressing socio-economic challenges locally but it is also to hold the local authorities accountable.

The brochure is a useful resource for civic activists and civil society organisation members who are interested in the issues of local self-governance, but also for city councillors, teachers or law professionals.

Citizen Participation in Local Decision-Making Processes

Page count: 64 pp.

Number of copies: 500 (400 in Russian and 100 in English)

The publication was prepared ahead of the European Local Democracy Week, which is an annual event gathering the representatives of local authorities from all the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe to discuss the ways of engaging citizens in resolving local challenges. It served as a food for thought reading for the participants.

The publication discusses 9 case studies of effective models for citizen engagement in local decision-making processes. It also shares the expert knowledge and hands-on experience and success stories collected from the participants of the previous editions of the Local Democracy Week.

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